

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

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E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, HU, UK

SUBJECT: UK FOREIGN SECRETARY CALLAGHAN VISITS HUNGARY

DEPARTMENT PLEASE PASS SECRETARY

1. DURING OFFICIAL VISIT TO BUDAPEST JULY 28-29, BRITISH FOREIGN SECRETARY JAMES CALLAGHAN HELD TALKS WITH PARTY FIRST SECRETARY JANOS KADAR, PRESIDENT PAL LOSONCZI, AND FONMIN FRIGYES PUJA ON BILATERAL TRADE MATTERS, EAST-WEST POLITICAL ISSUES, AND ON MIDDLE EAST.
 2. ACCORDING UK EMBASSY HERE, VISIT BEGAN WITH MARATHON FOUR AND ONE-HALF HOUR SESSION WITH FONMIN PUJA WHICH CALLAGHAN LATER DESCRIBED AS "GRISLY PERFORMANCE". BY WAY OF COMPARISON, FOREIGN SECRETARY SAID THIS INITIAL SESSION WITH PUJA AND HIS COHORTS WORSE THAN THAT WITNESSED IN MOSCOW IN FEBRUARY, AND MUCH WORSE THAN IN WARSAW EARLIER THIS MONTH.
 3. CALLAGHAN'S TALKS WITH KADAR AND LOSONCZI WENT EVER SO MUCH BETTER, WITH BOTH SIDES CONCENTRATING ON POSITIVE
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STEPS TO BE TAKEN AFTER CSCE SUMMIT. KADAR TOLD CALLAGHAN

THAT HUNGARIANS REALLY DESIRE IMPROVE RELATIONS WITH WEST;
THAT GOH TAKES SERIOUSLY ITS OBLIGATIONS AGREED TO AT
GENEVA AND WILL PROPOSE SERIES OF IMPLEMENTING STEPS TO
HMG DURING AUTUMN OF 1975. CALLAGHAN SUBSEQUENTLY TOLD
UK OFFICERS WHO HAD NOT ATTENDED THIS SESSION THAT THERE
HAD BEEN "MEETING OF MINDS" BETWEEN HIM AND KADAR.

4. FINMIN PUJA TOLD CALLAGHAN JULY 28 THAT US-USSR
UNDERSTANDINGS ARE WELL AND GOOD, BUT SMALLER COUNTRIES
MUST ALSO FIND THEIR PROPER PLACE IN INTERNATIONAL ARENA.
PUJA SAID WARSAW PACT NOT REJOICING OVER WESTERN ECONOMIC
CRISIS AND IS NOT ATTEMPTING TO EXPLOIT IT. AT THAT POINT
CALLAGHAN REJOINED "THANKS". CALLAGHAN TOLD PUJA THAT
PORTUGAL IS TOUCHSTONE OF DETENTE; IF PORTUGUESE COMMUNISTS
CONTINUE TO DRIVE PEOPLE DOWN PATH THEY DO NOT WISH TO
FOLLOW, THERE WILL BE NO PROGRESS TO DETENTE. PUJA INTER-
JECTED THAT INTERNAL AFFAIRS OF ONE COUNTRY SHOULD NOT
AFFECT DETENTE. CALLAGHAN COUNTERED "BUT THEY WILL".

5. CALLAGHAN ADVISED PUJA TO USE HUNGARIAN INFLUENCE
WITH PLO AND ARABS TO BLOCK MOVE TO EXPEL ISRAEL FROM UN.
PUJA THEN ASKED IF U.S. SERIOUS ABOUT THREAT TO WITHDRAW
FROM UNGA. CALLAGHAN ANSWERED THAT U.S. TAKING MATTER
VERY SERIOUSLY; AND HE ADDED THAT ACTION BY WARSAW PACT
NATIONS TO PREVENT EXPULSION OR SUSPENSION OF ISREAL
WOULD ASSIST PEACE EFFORTS IN MIDEAST.

6. UK OFFICIALS HAD LONG, SOMEWHAT CONTENTIOUS DRAFTING
SESSION OF JOINT COMMUNIQUE. GOH SOUGHT TO INCLUDE
LANGUAGE CALLING FOR REMOVAL OF TRADE DISCRIMINATION,
AN UNSUBTLE REFERENCE TO EEC BAN ON HUNGARIAN BEEF
IMPORTS; GOH TRIED TO INSERT SENTENCE ON PEACEFUL
COEXISTENCE; GOH ALSO VIGOROUSLY OPPOSED RECOGNIZING
ROLE OF INDIVIDUALS IN PROMOTING CULTURAL RELATIONS,
A POINT ON WHICH FCO DRAFTSMEN INSISTED. HUNGARIANS
DROPPED THEIR TWO PROPOSALS AFTER MUCH TUSSLING AND
AGREED TO INCLUDE REFERENCE TO POSITIVE ROLE OF
INDIVIDUALS IN CURTURAL RELATIONS.

7. JUST BEFORE DEPARTING CALLAGHAN TOLD UK EMBASSY THAT
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VISIT HAD GONE WELLAFTER SHAKY START AND THAT HE WAS
PLEASED WITH OUTCOME. HUNGARIAN OFFICIALS APPEARED TENSE
AND APPREHENSIVE DURING FIRST DAY'S DISCUSSIONS, BUT LATER
RELAXED CONSIDERABLY WITH EVEN FONMIN PUJA SHOWING
JOVIALITY.
MCAULIFFE

NOTE BY OC/T: NOT PASSED SECRETARY.

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